

Key Action: Learning Mobility of Individuals
Action Type: Higher education student and staff mobility between Programme and Partner Countries

Project Title

Project for higher education student and staff mobility between Programme Countries and Partner Countries

Good practice example

Project Coordinator

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Project Information

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Project Summary

The University of Cordoba (UCO) has coordinated the implementation of the project in two phases. The first one, corresponding to the 2015/2016 academic year, was devoted to the preparation of agreements and relations with partners. The second phase took place during the 2016/2017 academic year and centred on mobilities between associated institutions, focusing both on international credit mobility (12 participants) and on the mobility of teachers and administrative and service staff (12 and 5 participants, respectively).

Given that the countries for which the UCO was granted funding were Belarus and Morocco, the University of Cordoba aimed this first project at promoting good neighbourly relations with the southern countries of the Mediterranean and Eastern Basin of Europe, as well as contributing to capacity building within the Higher Education programs in these countries. These objectives and this type of approach are in tune with the neighborhood policies that is being implemented by the European Union in recent years.

The partner institution in Belarus, Brest State Technical University (BrSTU), which formerly participated with UCO in the Erasmus Mundus-Action 2 (EMA2) project "TEMPO", has become a trusted partner of our University after reciprocal mobilities (4 IN-5 OUT). These first staff mobilities made it possible to get to know the profile of the associated institution and to establish a solid foundation for future relations, not only for the continuity of this mobility project, but also for the proposal of projects in the areas of Chemistry and Environmental Sciences, within the framework of Key Action 2 of the Program. The curricular and personal enrichment of students participating in Erasmus mobility in our University in 2016/17 (3 students), and their interest in the UCO, resulted in the extension of their studies and new scholarships in the 2017/18 academic year.

Located in Minsk, the capital of the country, the Belarusian National Technical University (BNTU) is a promising partner for UCO in the areas of Business and Information Technology. The mobility of teachers in these areas during the 2016/17 academic year (3 IN / 2 OUT) has allowed not only the exchange of knowledge among teachers, but also the presentation to students in the associated counterpart and the establishment of contacts outside the university (Minsk Technology Park). BNTU students who stayed at UCO (mostly female) show a high degree of satisfaction after their first experience of international mobility, displaying interest in continuing to expand their curriculum abroad.

In its relations with the partner country Morocco, UCO aims to contribute to the process of creating the Euro-Mediterranean Area of Higher Education and Research. The registration of the Université Ibn Tofaïl (UIT) as a new partner in the KA107 project allowed us to achieve the objective of progressing in relations with this great Higher Education institution, linked to UCO since 2009 in the field of Biotechnology, Environmental Sciences and Quality, in an AECID project. The stay of two UIT doctoral students in UCO Biosciences and Agri-Food Sciences PhD Programs for more than 6 months has led to the signing of Agreements for Co-supervision of Doctoral Theses, in turn complemented by the reciprocal mobilities of the UCO and ITU professors directing them.

In the 2017/18 academic year, UCO's international mobility project continues with Belarus and Morocco, with the aim of gradually increasing the activity of incoming student mobility, extending collaboration between teachers and researchers from partner institutions and contributing to the modernization and internationalization of Higher Education in the associated countries of Eastern and Southern Europe.

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